



File Code: 2600

Date: February 25, 2013

Dear Pennsylvania Falconers:

The northern goshawk is considered a sensitive species on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). The ANF actively manages this raptor to ensure its continued viability on the Forest. Each year, potential nesting areas are searched for new nest sites and known nests are monitored to determine goshawk use. Buffer zones are places around known nests to ensure that roads, trails, and timber harvest activities do not disturb nesting goshawks or compromise the integrity of the nest site.

To better manage the taking of goshawk chicks from nests on the ANF, in May 1996, the Forest worked with members of the Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust and Pennsylvania Game Commission to develop the following falconry policy:

- Once a licensed falconer has located an active goshawk nest on the ANF, he/she must request written permission from the Forest Supervisor to take a chick from the nest and provide a map and/or coordinates of the nest.
- The licensed falconer is required to have this written permission in his/her possession when taking a goshawk from a nest on the ANF.

The ANF does not anticipate a high number of requests and, therefore, does not believe any requests will be denied. However, the ANF will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, members of the Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust and raptor researchers to determine what level of take is appropriate for this goshawk population.

In accordance with Pennsylvania Code, at least one nestling must be left in any nest that an eyas is taken from. To encourage continued use of existing nest sites, the ANF prefers that only one nestling be taken from any nest. At the same time, the ANF will be gathering valuable information to better quantify the relationship between falconry practices and the long-term sustainability of the goshawk population on the Forest. The ANF encourages falconers to report the location of goshawk nests to the Forest, even if there is no intention to take a bird from the nest.



The ANF's goal is not to stop falconry, nor burden falconers with additional paperwork, but to establish a cooperative working relationship that will provide a healthy, sustainable goshawk population on the Forest.

If you have any questions or would like to request written permission to take a chick from a nest, please contact Collin Koers at (814) 728-6142.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erin Connelly*  
ERIN CONNELLY  
Forest Supervisor